

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action dated January 31, 2006, which time period is set to expire on April 31, 2006. Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Before this amendment, claims 1-21 were pending. Claims 1-15 were allowed. Claims 16-21 were rejected. Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 1-15 are allowable.

Claims 16-21 have been cancelled in this amendment. Thus, Claims 1-15 are presenting pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. 112

The rejection of Claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, have been obviated by this amendment. Therefore, it is believed that these claims are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai et al (US 5,496,871) in view of Valint, Jr. et al (US 6,440,571) and Vanderaan et al (US 6,087,415).

The cancellation of Claims 16-21 is believed to obviate this rejection. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a subsequent continuation application.

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is solicited.

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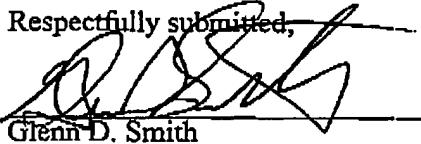
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No additional fee is believed to be due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1425.

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Respectfully submitted,


Glenn D. Smith
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,156

BAUSCH & LOMB INCORPORATED
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, NY 14604-2701
Telephone: (585) 338-6142
Facsimile: (585) 338-8706